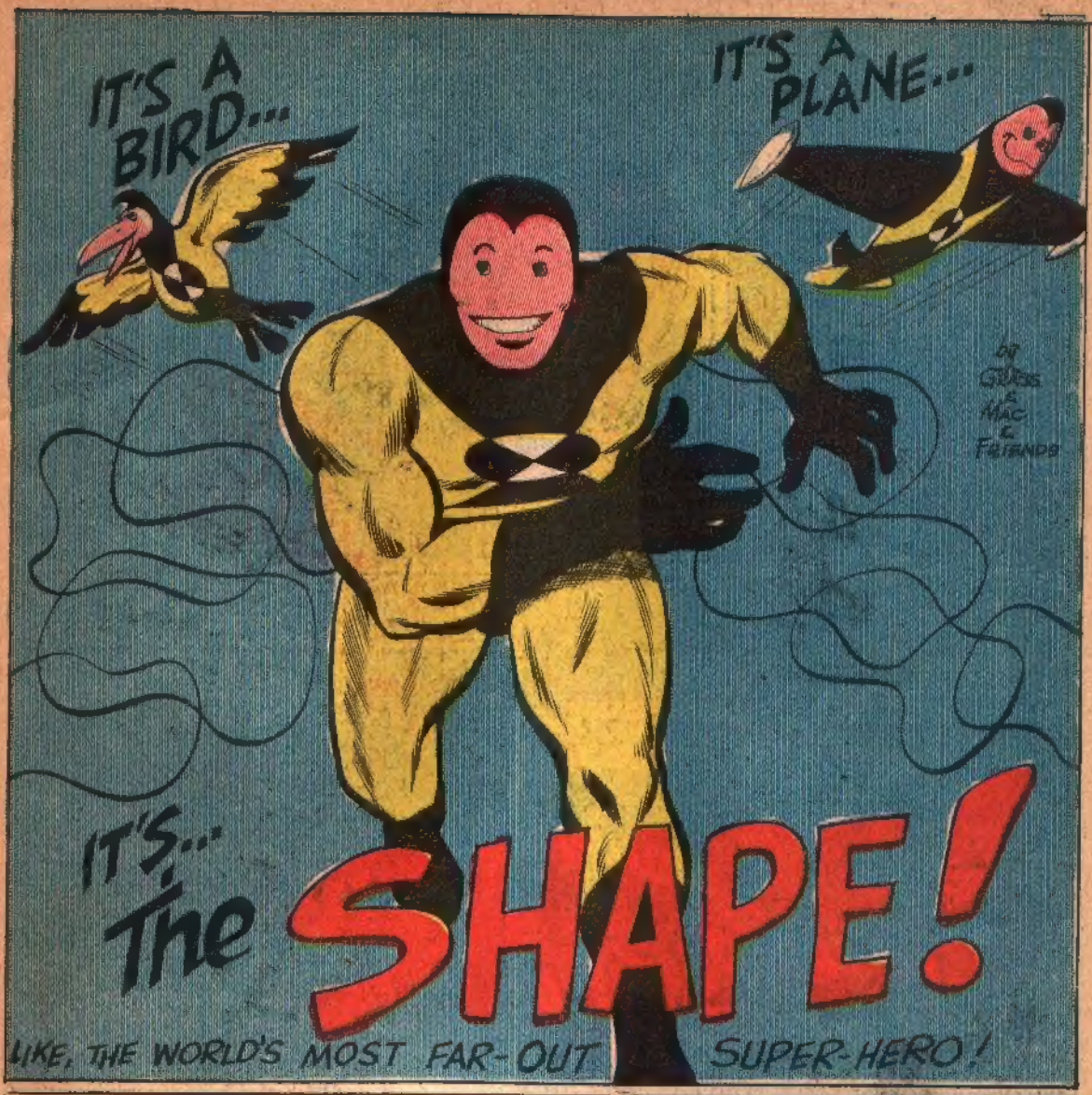
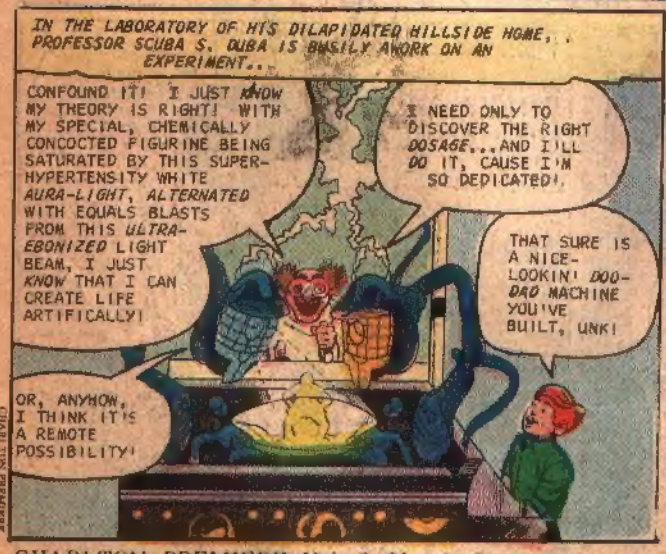
CHARLTON COMICS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
CHARLTON
PREMIERE
12¢
CDC
NO. 1
SEPT.
Presents
TRIO
THREE NEW ACTION-HERO IDEAS FROM CHARLTON!
THE TYRO TEAM!
A TERRIFYING MONSTROSITY OF STRENGTH...
THE SPOOKMAN
The SHAPE
LIKE, THE WORLD'S MOST FAR OUT ACTION-HERO!
RETAILERS: SEE PAGE 28 FOR SPECIAL DISPLAY ALLOWANCE PLAN




IN THE LABORATORY OF HIS DILAPIDATED HILLSIDE HOME, PROFESSOR SCUBA S. DUBA IS BUSILY AWORK ON AN EXPERIMENT...
CONFOUND IT! I JUST KNOW MY THEORY IS RIGHT! WITH MY SPECIAL, CHEMICALLY CONCOCTED FIGURINE BEING SATURATED BY THIS SUPER-HYPERTENSITY WHITE AURA-LIGHT, ALTERNATED WITH EQUALS BLASTS FROM THIS ULTRA-EBONIZED LIGHT BEAM, I JUST KNOW THAT I CAN CREATE LIFE ARTIFICALLY!
I NEED ONLY TO DISCOVER THE RIGHT DOSAGE...AND I'LL DO IT, CAUSE I'M SO DEDICATED!
THAT SURE IS A NICE-LOOKIN' DOO-DAD MACHINE YOU'VE BUILT, UNK!
OR, ANYHOW, I THINK IT'S A REMOTE POSSIBILITY!
CHARLTON PREMIERE

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?? YOU HAVE WORK TO DO! YOU LIVE HERE SO YOU MUST WORK, NOT SHIRK WORK! I'M THE ONLY KIN YOU'VE GOT, KEVIN BOYD, AND YOU'D BETTER SHOW SOME APPRECIATION OR IT'S OFF TO THE ORPHANAGE WITH YOU, SEE?
NOW EMPTY THE TRASH AND DUST THOSE CABINETS! WASH THE WINDOWS AND MOP THE FLOORS, AND HURRY UP ABOUT IT! HECK, DON'T JUST STAND THERE, BOY, MOVE!
YES SIR, OH KIND UNCLE, SIR!

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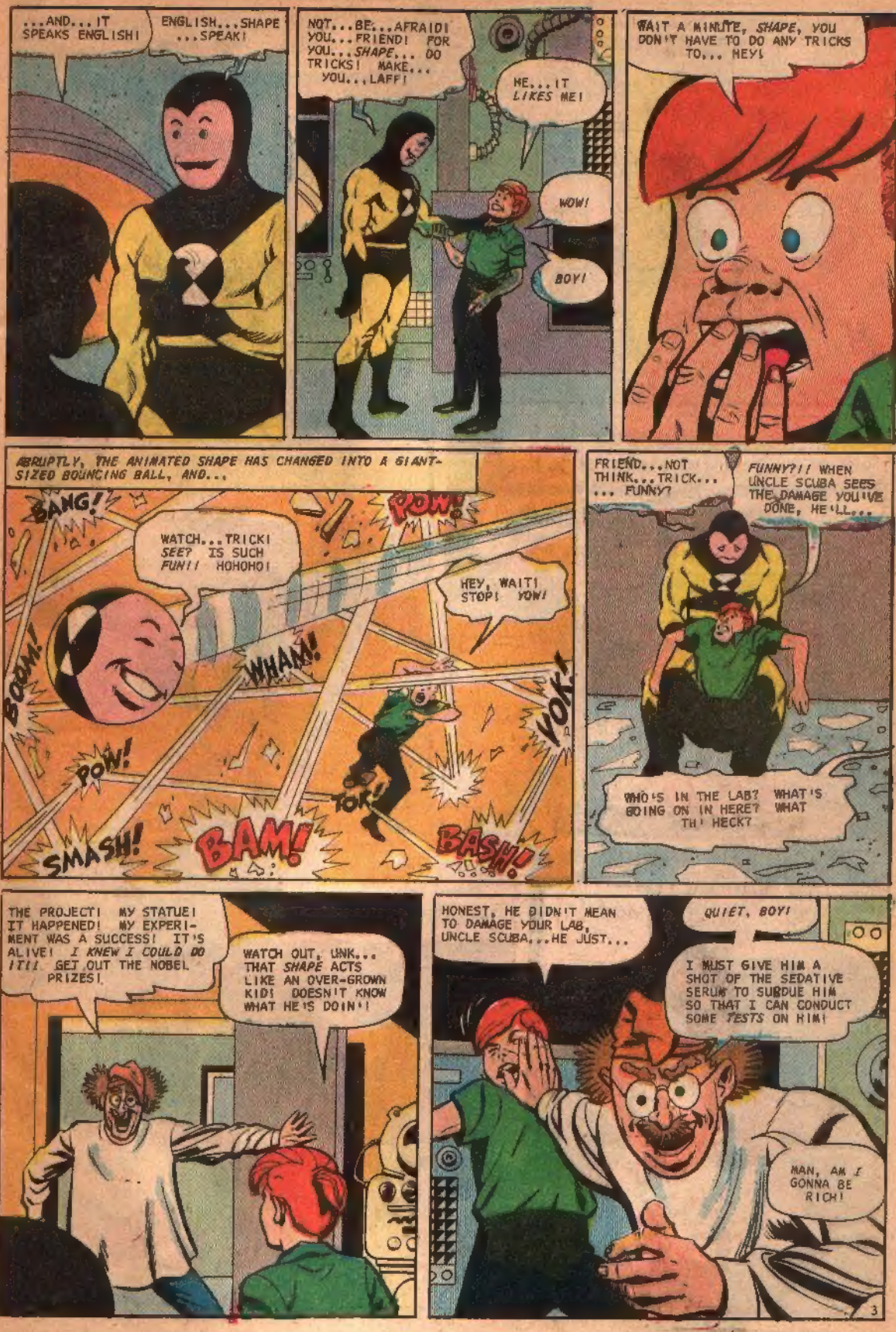
LATE THAT NIGHT, IT IS A TIRED, BUT ANGRY KEVIN BOND WHO LIES AWAKE BROODING...
BOY, AM I POOPED!
WORK, WORK, WORK!
BUT TONIGHT WAS THE LAST STRAW! I'M TIRED OF BEING HIS WORK HORSE... I'M GETTIN' OUTTA HERE!
KEVIN HURRIEDLY PACKS, AND...
UNK SLEEPS NEAR THE FRONT DOOR AND MIGHT HEAR ME WHEN I LEAVE...
...SO I'LL JUST GO THRU THE LAB AND USE THE BACK DOOR!
GEE, IT SURE IS DARK IN HERE!
OUCH! B-GOLLY... I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING!
THE BACK DOOR SHOULD BE OVER THIS W--! OOOP!
BUMP!
CRASH!
SUDDENLY, THE LIGHTS COME ON...INCLUDING THE LIGHTS OF PROFESSOR OUBA'S FANTASTIC CONTRAPTION, WITH BOTH OF ITS PHENOMENAL BEAMS BLASTING THE STATUETTE SIMULTANEOUSLY!!
BOY, AM I GONNA GET YELLED AT!
ZZZ
ZZ
TH-THE LI'L STATUE UNK USED FOR HIS TESTS... IT'S MOVING! IT'S STARTING TO GROW!
IT LOOKS ALMOST HUMAN, NOW, YET, IT ISN'T! IT... IT'S ONLY A--A SHAPE!
...ONLY...A SHAPE...
HOLY ORIGINS! IT'S...ALIVE, YET...!


...AND...IT SPEAKS ENGLISH!
ENGLISH...SHAPE ...SPEAK!
NOT...BE...AFRAID! YOU...FRIEND! FOR YOU...SHAPE... DO TRICKS! MAKE... YOU...LAFF!
HE...IT LIKES ME!
WOW!
BOY!
WAIT A MINUTE, SHAPE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANY TRICKS TO... HEY!
ABRUPTLY, THE ANIMATED SHAPE HAS CHANGED INTO A GIANT-SIZED BOUNCING BALL, AND...
BANG!
WATCH...TRICK! SEE? IS SUCH FUN!! HOHOHO!
PON!
HEY, WAIT! STOP! YOW!
BOOM!
WHAM!
YOK!
PON!
TOK!
SMASH!
BAM!
BASH!
FRIEND...NOT THINK...TRICK... ... FUNNY?
FUNNY?!! WHEN UNCLE SCUBA SEES THE DAMAGE YOU'VE DONE, HE'LL...
WHO'S IN THE LAB? WHAT'S GOING ON IN HERE? WHAT TH' HECK?
THE PROJECT! MY STATUE! IT HAPPENED! MY EXPERIMENT WAS A SUCCESS! IT'S ALIVE! I KNEW I COULD DO IT!!! GET OUT THE NOBEL PRIZES!
WATCH OUT, UNK... THAT SHAPE ACTS LIKE AN OVER-GROWN KID! DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S DOIN'!
HONEST, HE DIDN'T MEAN TO DAMAGE YOUR LAB, UNCLE SCUBA...HE JUST...
QUIET, BOY!
I MUST GIVE HIM A SHOT OF THE SEDATIVE SERUM TO SUBDUE HIM SO THAT I CAN CONDUCT SOME TESTS ON HIM!
MAN, AM I GONNA BE RICH!
3

SENSING DANGER FROM THE APPROACHING PROFESSOR, THE SHAPE MAKES A HASTY EXIT!
NOT...LIKE...UNCA ...SCUBA! SHAPE ...A-GONNA LEAVE!
STOP! HALT! WHOA! CEASE! DESIST!
CRASH!
COME BACK HERE, YOU ADDLE-BRAINED NINCOMPOOP!
HE'S GONE, UNK! YOU SCARED HIM OFF!
MY OWN CREATION WOULDN'T LET ME EXPERIMENT ON 'IM, HEY? DUCKED OUT ON ME, DID HE? WELL, I'LL FIX HIS TWO-TONE WAGON!!
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO, UNK?
I'M GONNA CALL THE PROPER AUTHORITIES AND PROCLAIM HIM...IF...AS A MENACE THAT NEEDS TO BE DESTROYED! THEY'LL PULVERIZE THE BUM!
...B-BUT, UNK...YOU CAN'T! WHY IT'S JUST LIKE A BIG BABY. IT DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT....
IF I CAN'T CONDUCT EXPERIMENTS ON MY OWN COME-TO-LIFE CREATION, THEN NOBODY AIN'T!
OPERATOR, GIMME THE POLICE! THE ARMY, EVEN!!
UNCLE SCUBA'S COMPLETELY FLIPPED HIS LID! I'VE GOTTA CATCH SHAPE AND CONVINCE HIM I'M STILL HIS FRIEND, SO'S I CAN HIDE HIM 'TIL UNK REGAINS HIS SENSES!
WHATTAYA MEAN, "WHO IS THIS?" I SAID GIMME THE POLICE! OR THE ARMY!
OR THE NAVY!
THERE HE GOES! GOLLY! HE'S CHANGED HIS FEET INTO WHEELS...I'LL NEVER CATCH HIM NOW! BUT I'VE GOT TO TRY! HE...IT... MAY NEED ME!
WHEEEEE! SHAPE... GOING... TO...HAVE ... FUN!
OOOOH, LOOKY-LOOK! TOWER! BIG...TALL... TOWER! AND ...THERE...MAN...ON...IT ...MAYBE...HE...BE... SHAPE'S...FRIEND!
S-S-SCREECH!
4

CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT PAGE

HURRY, OTTO! JUST TWO MORE CABLES AND SECTION 'B' AT CAMP KILJOY WILL BE BLACKED OUT, AND COMRADES VIC AND KARL CAN *STRIKE* FROM THEIR PREDESIGNATED PLACES OF CONCEALMENT!
AND DON'T WORRY! THOSE SUPER INSULATED GLOVES WILL PROTECT YOU FROM SHOCK!
JA! DEN VE VILL HESCAPE MIT DER NEW *SPACE DOCUMENTS* DOT DER HAMERICANS T'INK IS SO *SAFE* AT DOT ARMY POST! HAHA! DIS GONNA BE DER BEST SPY HEIST IN HISTORY... STEALING TOP-PRIORITY PAPERS FROM AN AMERICAN MILITARY BASE! HA!
MEANWHILE, KEVIN HAS ARRIVED JUST IN TIME TO OVERHEAR!
GOLLY! THOSE GUYS ARE *SPIES*... AND THEY'RE ABOUT TO SWIPE SOME KIND OF *MISSILE* PLANS! AND THERE ISN'T A THING I CAN DO TO STOP 'EM! BUT, HOLD IT! WHAT'S *SHAPE* UP TO? HE'S CHANGED INTO A...*GIANT MACHETE???*
MAN...HAVING... FUN? *SHAPE*... WANT...HAVE... FUN... TOO!
WHOOSH!
YIPE! VOT ISS DOT?
KRACKLE!
OW-W!
THE ENEMY AGENT QUICKLY DECENDS THE TOWER...
I DON'T KNOW VOT DOT T'ING *VAS*, BUT IT SURE SAVED ME A CHOB! LET'S GO!
JA! IT CUT ENOUGH WIRES THAT THE ENTIRE BASE SHOULD BE BLACK-OUT BY NOW!
SHAPE...SHAPE, YOU CRAZY CRITTER...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YEH...*SHAPE*... OKAY! YOU *SHAPE'S*...ONLY ...*FRIEND*...
...MAN...ON TOWER...PULL ...MEAN TRICK! TRY...HURT... *SHAPE!* WHY?
5

THEY'RE ENEMY AGENTS AND THEY'RE GETTING AWAY! STOP 'EM, SHAPE!
OKAY! SHAPE ...STOP!
Y!! VERE DID DOT ROPE COME FROM?
WHISH!
UGH! I CAN'T GET LOOSE!
YOU...BAD! TRY...HURT SHAPE! BUT...SHAPE... FIX! LIKE..? THIS!
AGH!
AGH!
CONK!
POK!
GOOD JOB, SHAPE, BUT, C'MON... WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THAT NEAR-BY ARMY BASE AND STOP THOSE OTHER SPIES!
WE...GET... THERE...FAST! HANG ON...TO ...SHAPE!
GOLLY!
WHEEE! THIS ...FUN, YES? WE...TRAVEL ...FAST, NOT
SOON...
HALT! WHO GOES THERE?
THIS AREA IS RESTRICTED! STOP, OR WE OPEN FIRE!
UH-OH! THE POWER CUT MUST NOT HAVE AFFECTED THIS AREA!
BUT WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO EXPLAIN OUR MISSION! WE'VE GOT TO GET PAST 'EM, SHAPE!
GOTTA...GET ...PAST 'EM!
WHEEEE!
GOOD WORK, SHAPE! NOW, I HAVE A PLAN BUT WE MUST HURRY!
A--A FLYING HORSE!
I DON'T B-BELIEVE IT!
6

AND...SO, A FEW SECONDS LATER, IN THE BLACK-OUT AREA, TWO ENEMY AGENTS DASH FROM AN IMPORTANT BUILDING!
EVERYTHING GOES WELL! WE AT LAST HAVE THE DOCUMENTS!
AND THERE IS THE GETAWAY CAR! WE'LL GET AWAY CLEAN BEFORE THE SOLDIERS ARE EVEN WISE!
HEADQUA
BUT!
K-K-KARL! TH-THE CAR MOVES BUT IT HAS NO GEARS!
THAT TREE, YOU FOOL! LOOK!
VROOÖM!
CRASH!
YOU DID IT, SHAPE, YOU DID IT! THOSE SPIES ARE OUT COLD! ARE YOU OKAY? THAT WAS QUITE A SMACK!
YEH...SHAPE OKAY! WAS ... FUN!
BUT, YOU'VE GOTTA HIDE, SHAPE... 'FORE ANYBODY COMES!
JUST THEN, ALL THE LIGHTS COME BACK ON, AND THE AREA IS FLOODED WITH SOLDIERS, AS PROFESSOR SCUBA S. DUBA ROARS UPON THE SCENE!
LOOK! IT'S KARL MIKTEN AND VIC FACSH!
CAUGHT BY A LITTLE KID!
WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR THEM F'MONTHS!
NO! KEVIN WAS HELPED! HELPED BY MY CREATION, THE SHAPE, I TELL YOU. I CREATED A SUPER-HERO!
LOOK OUT! IT'S THAT NUTTY PROFESSOR THAT LIVES NEAR HERE!
OH, MY POOR, POOR HEAD...
ON YER FEET!
HE LOOKS JUST LIKE A SCARECROW!
WHAT KINDA CAR IS THAT?
IGNORE ME IF YOU WILL...SHUN ME... CALL ME NAMES...VIOLATE MY REPUTATION! BUT YOU'LL LEARN SOON ENOUGH! THE REAL CREDIT FOR THE CAPTURE OF THOSE TWO SPIES GOES TO A CREATURE I INVENTED!
ALL RIGHT, DAD...WHERE IS THIS HERO OF YOURS?
HE PROBABLY HID DUE TO ALL THE CONFUSION, BUT HE LIKES THIS BOY! SO, I'M TAKING KEVIN HOME! THE SHAPE'LL UNDOUBTEDLY FOLLOW US, AND THEN I'LL CAPTURE HIM, AND...
SURE YA WILL!
YEAH, PROFESSOR, SURE! WE KNOW! HAR! HAR!
TELL US ANOTHER ONE, PUPS!
WHAT A HANDSOME!
THUS ENDS THE SAGA OF THE SHAPE... OR DOES IT??
WADDA YOU THINK, CHARLIE?
THE END

MAY WE PLEASE HAVE YOUR ATTENTION!!!

The purpose and intent of this comic format magazine will be two-fold. First, of course, it is intended to be entertaining. Second, it will be experimental in content. We hope to utilize this title to test new ideas, new concepts or innovational approaches to old concepts. Subject matter, editorial content and art treatment will be completely unrestricted. We will attempt innovation in romance, and war, and western themes as well as action-hero. If your interest lies in just one of these areas, you may not want to purchase every issue of CHARLTON PREMIERE. If your interest lies in comics that are different, you may want to subscribe. In any case, this is truly your comic book. Your reaction, expressed in letters may well determine the future of the ideas presented within its covers. Their fate depends on you! We want your letters...we need your letters...if we are to know what you like and what you don't like!

As you may have guessed by the cover and by leafing through this issue, Trio is action-hero time.

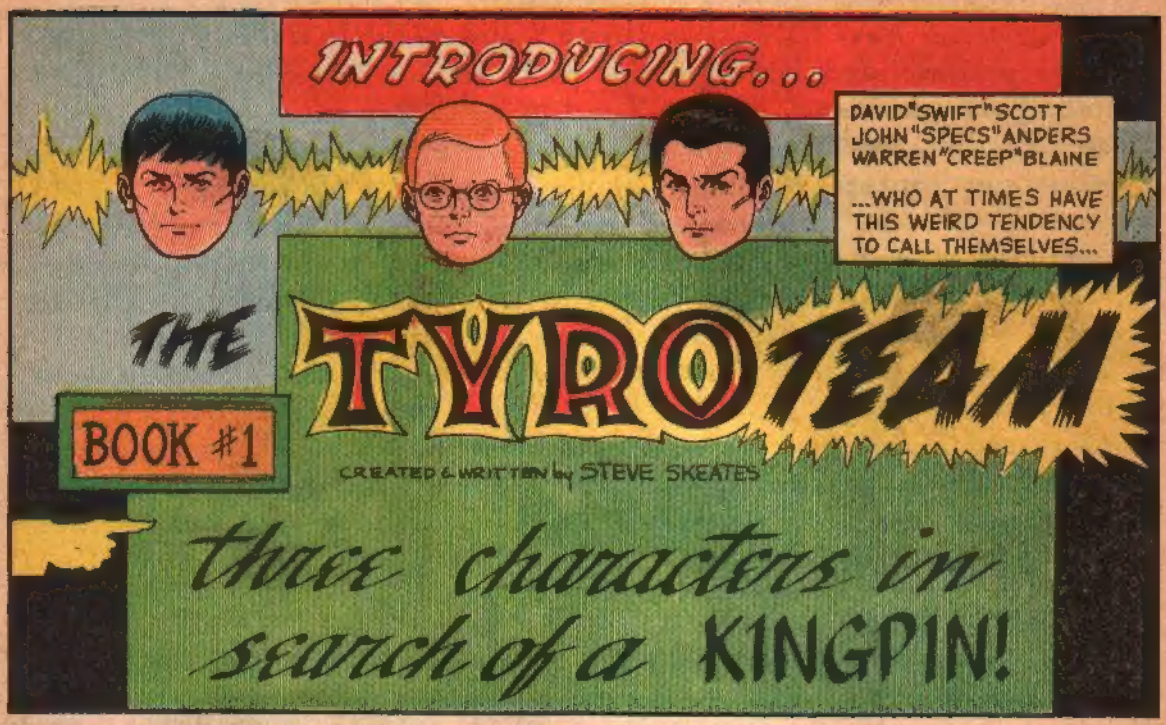
The Shape clearly illustrates the reason for CHARLTON PREMIERE. About a year ago, two people (who shall remain nameless) came up with the basic idea for THE SHAPE and passed it along to Grass Green. Grass whipped it into "shape," wrote the dialogue, pencilled it and sent it along to us. We loved it! But, alas, there was no title in which we could publish it! It was too heavy for GO-GO and too light for THUNDERBOLT. So it sat...and gathered dust. (Incidentally, Grass Green started working for us as a result of this job. We were so impressed with it that we've been using Grass' art ever since.) When we finally decided to publish CHARLTON PREMIERE, we were a little hesitant about The Shape because by this time Plastic Man had made its debut. After a good deal of thought we decided that The Shape was different enough and good enough to stand on its own. What do you think?

The Spookman is Pat Boyette's brain child and it too was mulled over and put aside until the advent of CHARLTON PREMIERE. With this vehicle we hope to give exposure to those creations of our artists and writers that couldn't have been published elsewhere in our line.

The Tyro Team came about as a result of locking CHARLTON PREMIERE into our schedule. We announced to our creative staff that we now had a showcase-type title and within a few days Steve Skeates had a synopsis on my desk. We liked it and here it is!

Tentative plans call for devoting an entire subsequent issue of PREMIERE to the feature or features that draw the most favorable response. We'll announce our final decision at a later date on this page.

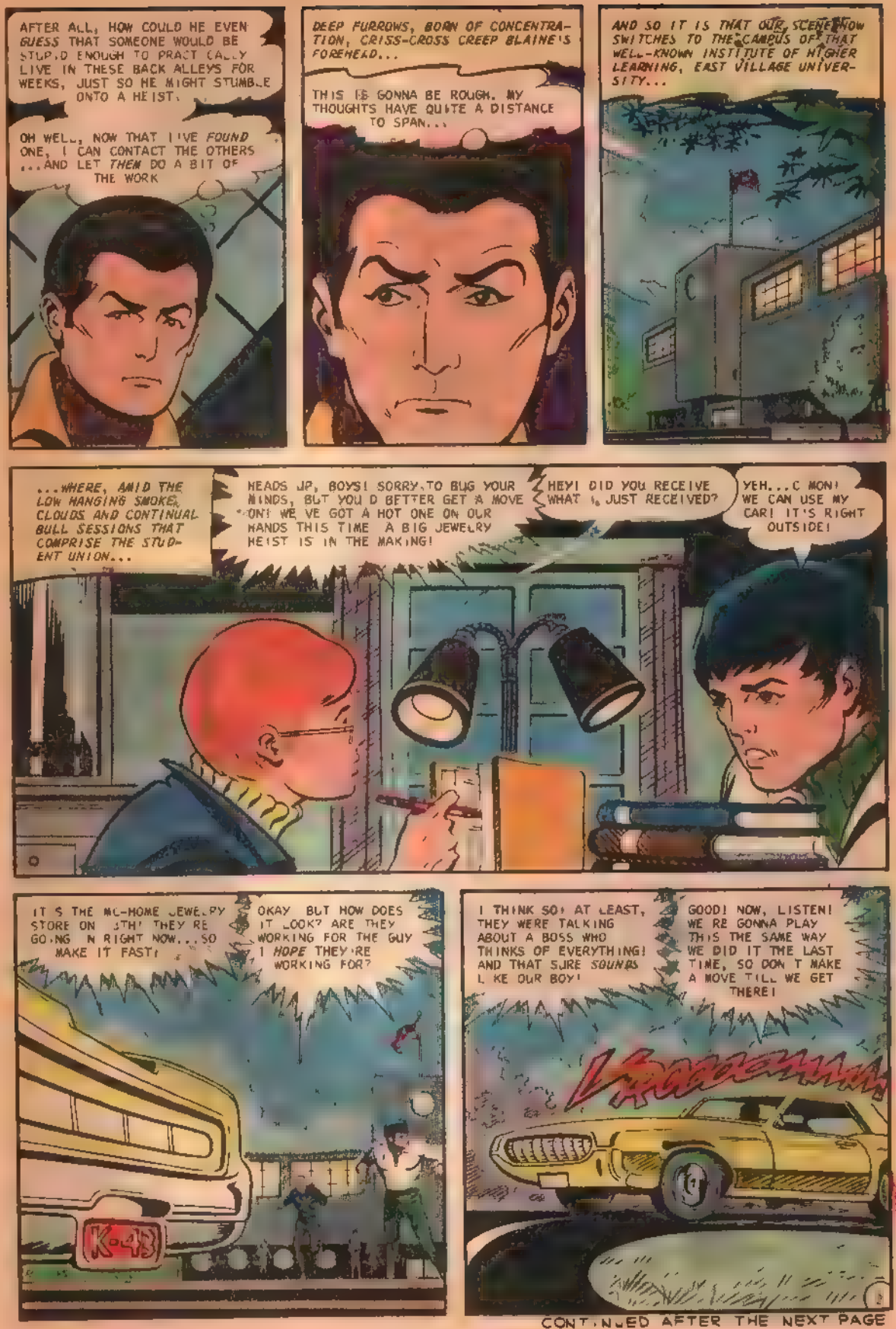
ADDRESS MAIL TO: Premiere, Charlton Comics, Derby, Conn. 06418


INTRODUCING...
DAVID "SWIFT" SCOTT
JOHN "SPECS" ANDERS
WARREN "CREEP" BLAINE
...WHO AT TIMES HAVE THIS WEIRD TENDENCY TO CALL THEMSELVES...
THE TYRO TEAM
BOOK #1
CREATED & WRITTEN by STEVE SKEATES
three characters in search of a KINGPIN!

AMONGST THE SHADOWS AND GLOOM OF A BACK ALLEY BY NIGHT, CRIME IS IN THE OFFING...
HURRY UP, WILLYA? WE'RE ALREADY RUNNING BEHIND SCHEDULE!
ALRIGHT! ALRIGHT! DON'T SWEAT IT! THIS LOCK'S A LITTLE TRICKIER THAN MOST! THAT'S ALL!
B-976

BESIDES, WHAT DO WE NEED A BLASTED SCHEDULE FOR, ANYWAY? SO WE'RE A COUPLE SECONDS OFF, WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?
CLICK CLICK

A LOT OF DIFFERENCE, ACCORDING TO THE BOSS! AND WE'D BEST DO LIKE HE SAYS, CUZ HE'S TAKEN EVERYTHING INTO CONSIDERATION!
EVERYTHING? NOW I DOUBT THAT!
Montes • Bache
1


AFTER ALL, HOW COULD HE EVEN GUESS THAT SOMEONE WOULD BE STUPID ENOUGH TO PRACTICALLY LIVE IN THESE BACK ALLEYS FOR WEEKS, JUST SO HE MIGHT STUMBLE ONTO A HEIST.
OH WELL, NOW THAT I'VE FOUND ONE, I CAN CONTACT THE OTHERS ...AND LET THEM DO A BIT OF THE WORK
DEEP FURROWS, BORN OF CONCENTRATION, CRISS-CROSS CREEP BLAINE'S FOREHEAD...
THIS IS GONNA BE ROUGH. MY THOUGHTS HAVE QUITE A DISTANCE TO SPAN...
AND SO IT IS THAT OUR SCENE NOW SWITCHES TO THE CAMPUS OF THAT WELL-KNOWN INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING, EAST VILLAGE UNIVERSITY...
...WHERE, AMID THE LOW HANGING SMOKE CLOUDS AND CONTINUAL BULL SESSIONS THAT COMPRISE THE STUDENT UNION...
HEADS UP, BOYS! SORRY TO BUG YOUR MINDS, BUT YOU'D BETTER GET A MOVE ON! WE'VE GOT A HOT ONE ON OUR HANDS THIS TIME. A BIG JEWELRY HEIST IS IN THE MAKING!
HEY! DID YOU RECEIVE WHAT I JUST RECEIVED?
YEH...C'MON! WE CAN USE MY CAR! IT'S RIGHT OUTSIDE!
IT'S THE MC-HOME JEWELRY STORE ON 37TH! THEY'RE GOING IN RIGHT NOW...SO MAKE IT FAST!
OKAY. BUT HOW DOES IT LOOK? ARE THEY WORKING FOR THE GUY I HOPE THEY'RE WORKING FOR?
K-43
I THINK SO! AT LEAST, THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT A BOSS WHO THINKS OF EVERYTHING! AND THAT SURE SOUNDS LIKE OUR BOY!
GOOD! NOW, LISTEN! WE'RE GONNA PLAY THIS THE SAME WAY WE DID IT THE LAST TIME, SO DON'T MAKE A MOVE TILL WE GET THERE!
VROOOOOOM

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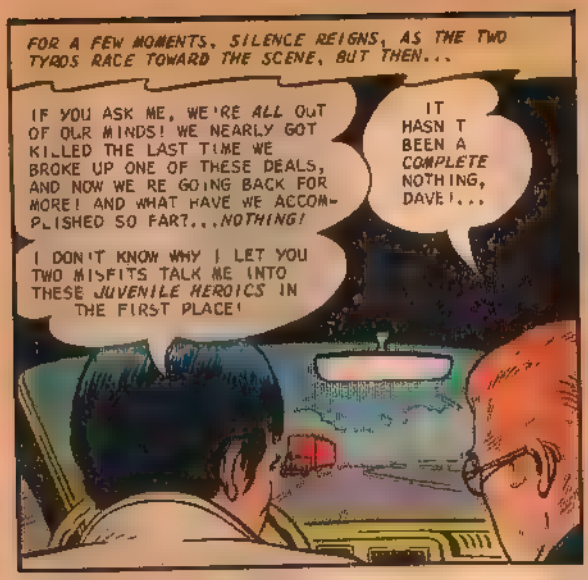
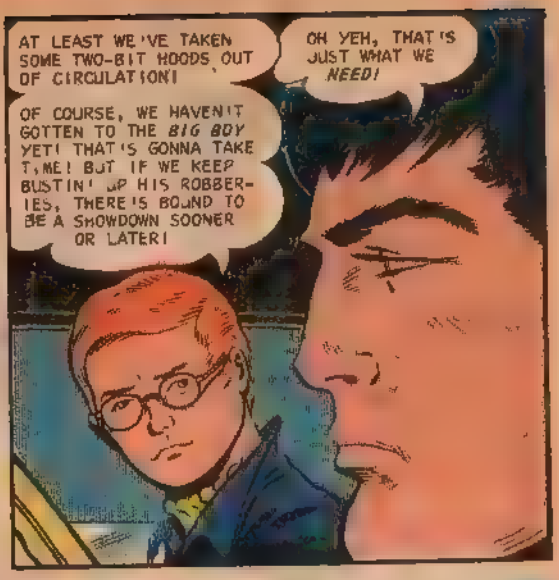
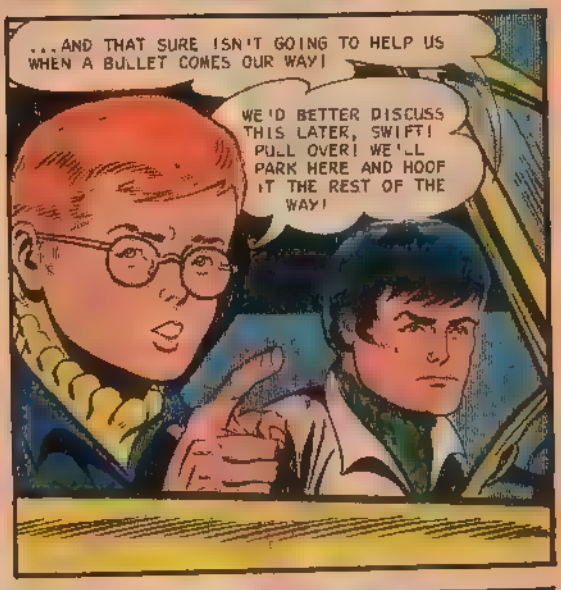
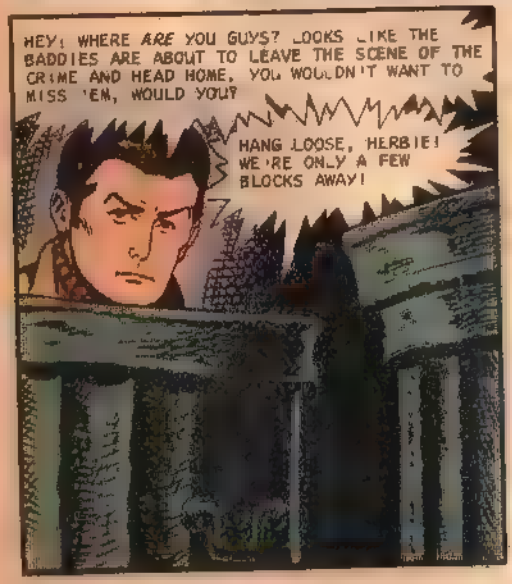
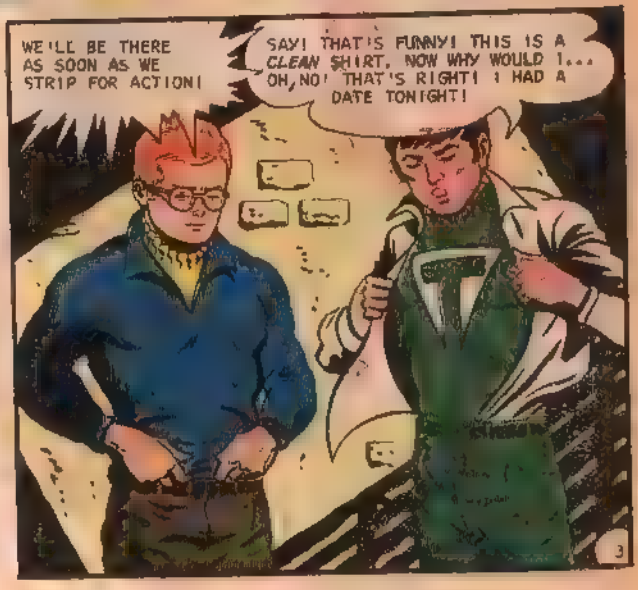

FOR A FEW MOMENTS, SILENCE REIGNS, AS THE TWO TYROS RACE TOWARD THE SCENE, BUT THEN...
IF YOU ASK ME, WE'RE ALL OUT OF OUR MINDS! WE NEARLY GOT KILLED THE LAST TIME WE BROKE UP ONE OF THESE DEALS, AND NOW WE RE GOING BACK FOR MORE! AND WHAT HAVE WE ACCOMPLISHED SO FAR?...NOTHING!
IT HASN T BEEN A COMPLETE NOTHING, DAVE!...
I DON'T KNOW WHY I LET YOU TWO MISFITS TALK ME INTO THESE JUVENILE HEROICS IN THE FIRST PLACE!


AT LEAST WE'VE TAKEN SOME TWO-BIT HOODS OUT OF CIRCULATION!
OH YEH, THAT'S JUST WHAT WE NEED!
OF COURSE, WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN TO THE BIG BOY YET! THAT'S GONNA TAKE TIME! BUT IF WE KEEP BUSTIN' UP HIS ROBBERIES, THERE'S BOUND TO BE A SHOWDOWN SOONER OR LATER!

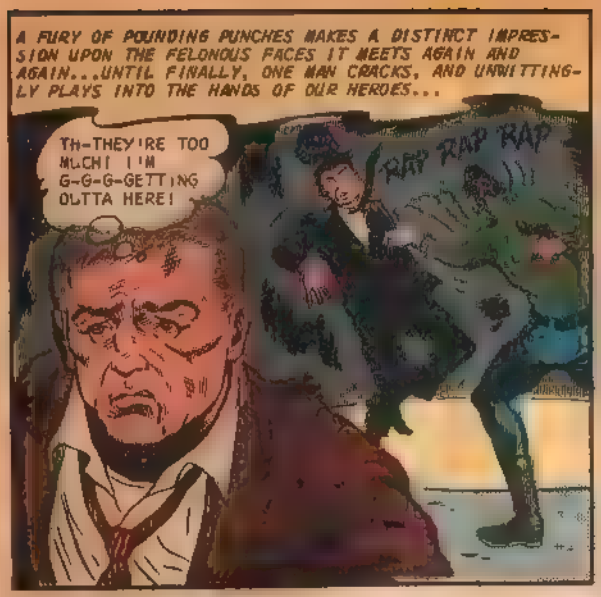
C'MON, SPECS! LOOK AT IT RATIONALLY! WE'RE THREE ORDINARY GUYS! WE'RE NOT PARTICULARLY STRONG, AND WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT CRIME-FIGHTING!
THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO IS TELEPATHICALLY COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER...

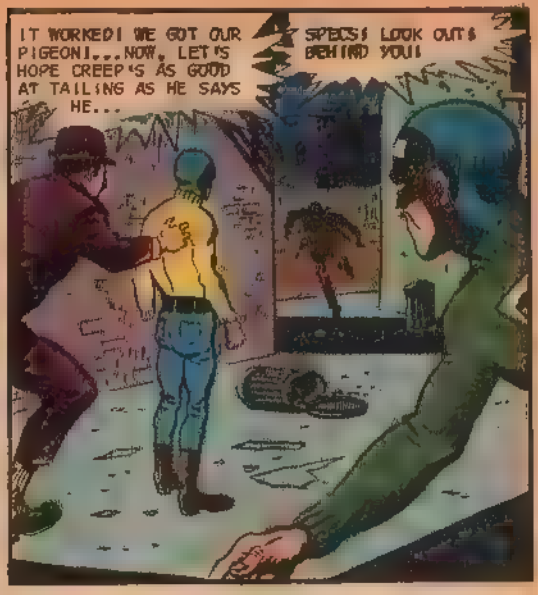

...AND THAT SURE ISN'T GOING TO HELP US WHEN A BULLET COMES OUR WAY!
WE'D BETTER DISCUSS THIS LATER, SWIFT! PULL OVER! WE'LL PARK HERE AND HOOF IT THE REST OF THE WAY!

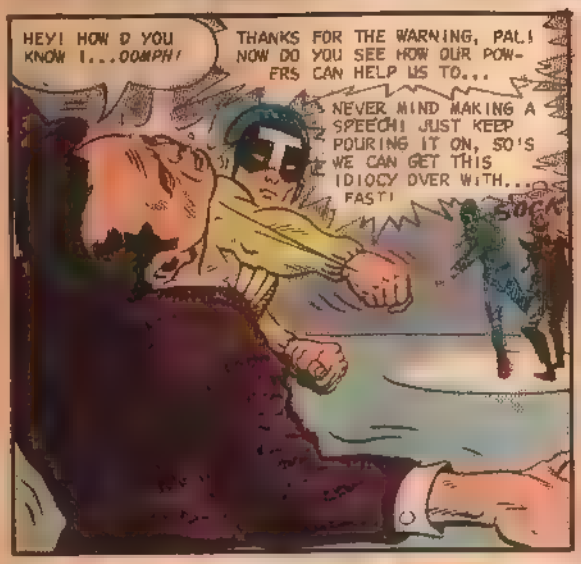

HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GUYS? LOOKS LIKE THE BADDIES ARE ABOUT TO LEAVE THE SCENE OF THE CRIME AND HEAD HOME, YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO MISS 'EM, WOULD YOU?
HANG LOOSE, HERBIE! WE'RE ONLY A FEW BLOCKS AWAY!

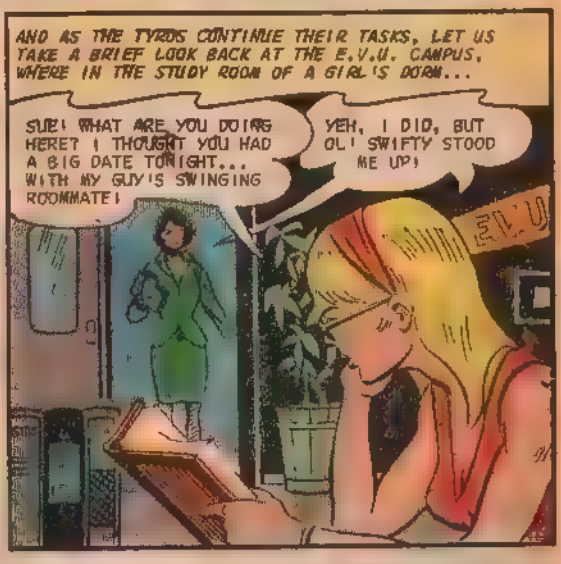

WE'LL BE THERE AS SOON AS WE STRIP FOR ACTION!
SAY! THAT'S FUNNY! THIS IS A CLEAN SHIRT, NOW WHY WOULD I... OH, NO! THAT'S RIGHT! I HAD A DATE TONIGHT!

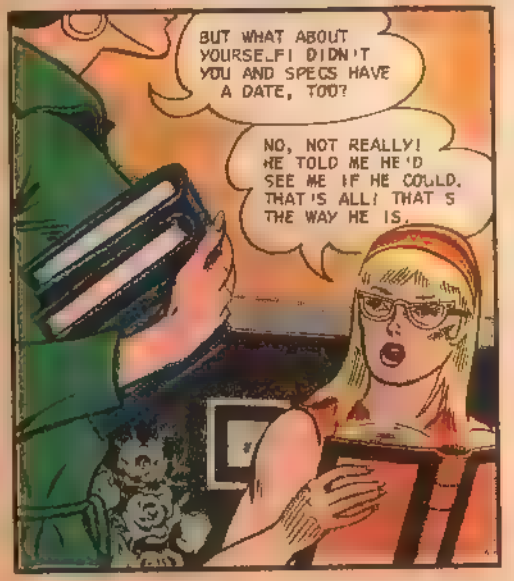
GET SERIOUS! I HAD A DATE TONIGHT, MYSELF! THOSE ARE THE BREAKS!
YEH! SURE! WHAT WAS IT? A STUDY DATE WITH MYRNA?
MINE WAS FOR A FRATERNITY BASH! AND THE KID WAS A REAL SWINGER!
IT WAS A FIRST DATE; SHE'LL *NEVER* FORGIVE ME FOR STANDING HER UP!
TELL ME SOMETHING, SWIFT! HAVE YOU GONE OUT ON ANYTHING *BUT* FIRST DATES THIS YEAR?
WHY SHOULD I? HOW CAN I TELL WHICH GIRL I'D LIKE TO SEE STEADILY, UNTIL I'VE DATED THEM ALL?
AN INTERESTING PHILOSOPHY! BUT JUST STAY AWAY FROM *MYRNA*. SHE'S NOT YOUR TYPE!
THE TYROS!!
CONGRATULATIONS, TEAMMATES! YOU COULDN'T HAVE TIMED IT *BETTER!*
BY THE WAY, BOYS, IF YOU NEED ANY HELP, REMEMBER... I JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE A TYRO SUIT, TOO!
RAP
NO, CREEP! STAY [redacted] YOU ARE, OUT OF SIGHT!
SO FAR, NO ONE KNOWS THERE'S A THIRD MEMBER OF THE TYRO TEAM, AND I WANT TO *KEEP* IT THAT WAY FOR A WHILE!
IF SWIFT AND I CAN PUT ENOUGH SCARE INTO THESE HOODS, ONE OF 'EM MIGHT MAKE A BREAK FOR IT! YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO THEN!
YEH, YEH! I GIT IT! 'M TO DO THE DIRTY WORK... AS USUAL!
4

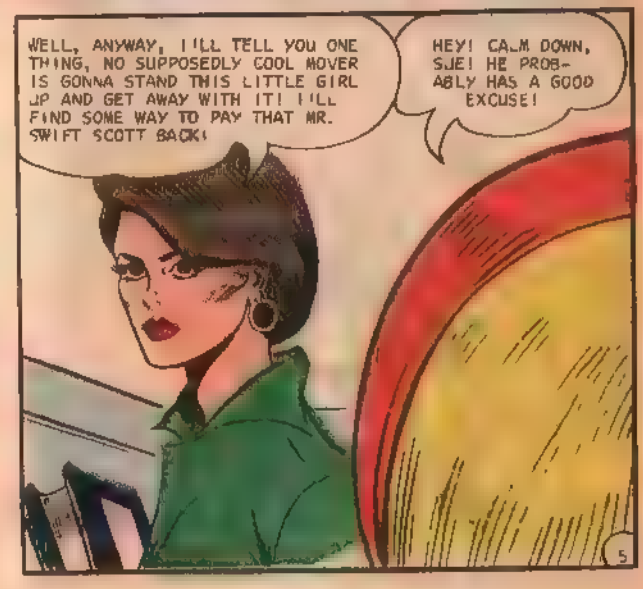

A FURY OF POUNDING PUNCHES MAKES A DISTINCT IMPRESSION UPON THE FELONOUS FACES IT MEETS AGAIN AND AGAIN...UNTIL FINALLY, ONE MAN CRACKS, AND UNWITTINGLY PLAYS INTO THE HANDS OF OUR HEROES...
TH-THEY'RE TOO MUCH! I'M G-G-G-GETTING OUTTA HERE!
RAP RAP RAP


IT WORKED! WE GOT OUR PIGEON!...NOW, LET'S HOPE CREEP'S AS GOOD AT TAILING AS HE SAYS HE...
SPECS! LOOK OUT! BEHIND YOU!


HEY! HOW D YOU KNOW I...OOMPH!
THANKS FOR THE WARNING, PAL! NOW DO YOU SEE HOW OUR POWERS CAN HELP US TO...
NEVER MIND MAKING A SPEECH! JUST KEEP POURING IT ON, SO'S WE CAN GET THIS IDIOCY OVER WITH... FAST!
SOCK

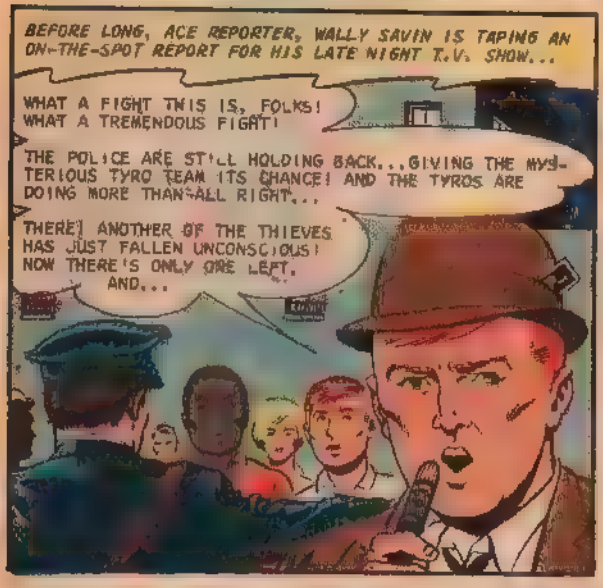

AND AS THE TYROS CONTINUE THEIR TASKS, LET US TAKE A BRIEF LOOK BACK AT THE E.V.U. CAMPUS, WHERE IN THE STUDY ROOM OF A GIRL'S DORM...
SUE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? I THOUGHT YOU HAD A BIG DATE TONIGHT... WITH MY GUY'S SWINGING ROOMMATE!
YEH, I DID, BUT OL' SWIFTY STOOD ME UP!
E.V.U.

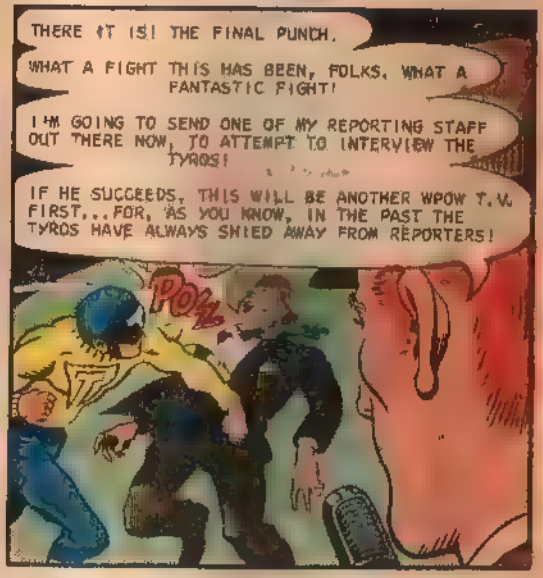

BUT WHAT ABOUT YOURSELF! DIDN'T YOU AND SPECS HAVE A DATE, TOO?
NO, NOT REALLY! HE TOLD ME HE'D SEE ME IF HE COULD. THAT'S ALL! THAT'S THE WAY HE IS.

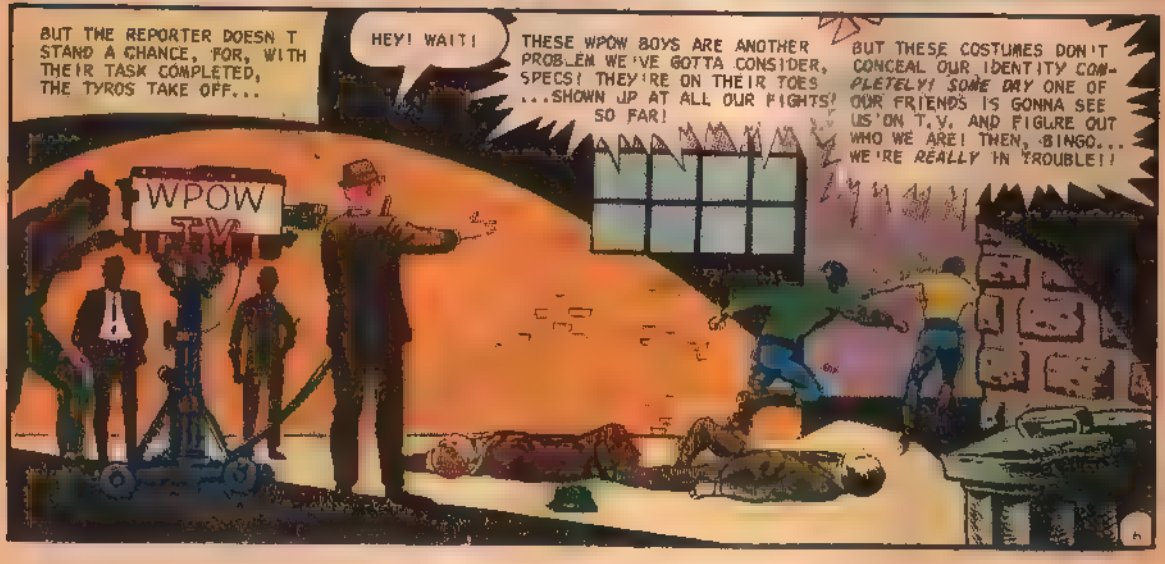

WELL, ANYWAY, I'LL TELL YOU ONE THING, NO SUPPOSEDLY COOL MOVER IS GONNA STAND THIS LITTLE GIRL UP AND GET AWAY WITH IT! I'LL FIND SOME WAY TO PAY THAT MR. SWIFT SCOTT BACK!
HEY! CALM DOWN, SUE! HE PROBABLY HAS A GOOD EXCUSE!

MEANWHILE...IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE FINALLY INFORMED THE POLICE OF THE RUCKUS DOWN ON 13TH STREET, FOR EVEN NOW...
UNITS 13, 14, AND 47 CONVERGE ON THE MC-HOME JEWELRY STORE...
RRRRRRR
PD 113

AND CLOSE BEHIND THE POLICE COMES THE EVER-VIGILANT MOBILE UNIT OF LOCAL T.V. STATION, WPOW...
STATION W.P.O.W. T.V.

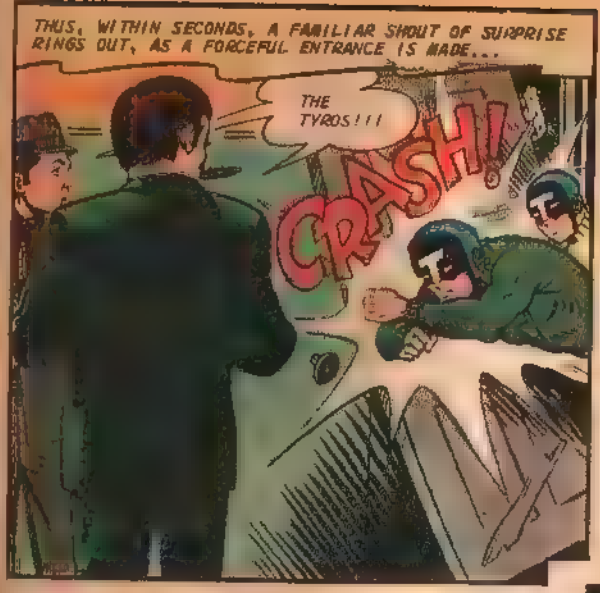

BEFORE LONG, ACE REPORTER, WALLY SAVIN IS TAPING AN ON-THE-SPOT REPORT FOR HIS LATE NIGHT T.V. SHOW...
WHAT A FIGHT THIS IS, FOLKS! WHAT A TREMENDOUS FIGHT!
THE POLICE ARE STILL HOLDING BACK...GIVING THE MYSTERIOUS TYRO TEAM ITS CHANCE! AND THE TYROS ARE DOING MORE THAN ALL RIGHT...
THERE! ANOTHER OF THE THIEVES HAS JUST FALLEN UNCONSCIOUS! NOW THERE'S ONLY ONE LEFT. AND...


THERE IT IS! THE FINAL PUNCH.
WHAT A FIGHT THIS HAS BEEN, FOLKS, WHAT A FANTASTIC FIGHT!
I'M GOING TO SEND ONE OF MY REPORTING STAFF OUT THERE NOW, TO ATTEMPT TO INTERVIEW THE TYROS!
IF HE SUCCEEDS, THIS WILL BE ANOTHER WPOW T.V. FIRST...FOR, AS YOU KNOW, IN THE PAST THE TYROS HAVE ALWAYS SHIED AWAY FROM REPORTERS!
POW


BUT THE REPORTER DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE, FOR, WITH THEIR TASK COMPLETED, THE TYROS TAKE OFF...
HEY! WAIT!
THESE WPOW BOYS ARE ANOTHER PROBLEM WE'VE GOTTA CONSIDER, SPECS! THEY'RE ON THEIR TOES ...SHOWN UP AT ALL OUR FIGHTS! SO FAR!
BUT THESE COSTUMES DON'T CONCEAL OUR IDENTITY COMPLETELY! SOME DAY ONE OF OUR FRIENDS IS GONNA SEE US ON T.V. AND FIGURE OUT WHO WE ARE! THEN, BINGO... WE'RE REALLY IN TROUBLE!!
WPOW TV
6

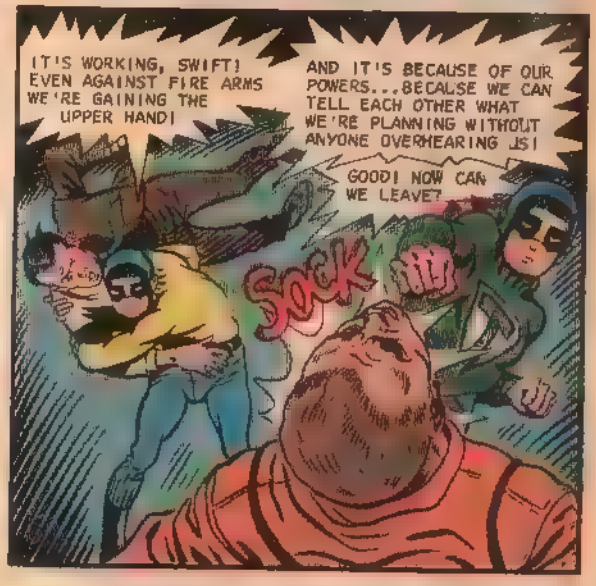
MEANWHILE, WHAT OF THE THIRD MEMBER OF OUR TEAM?...
UH-OH! WE DIDN'T COUNT ON OUR PIGEON MAKING CONTACT WITH ANOTHER LOWLY HOOD!
THEN... AS THE TWO HOODS PART WAYS...
NOW, WHICH ONE DO I FOLLOW? ONE OF THEM WILL LEAD ME TO THE BIG MAN... I HOPE! BUT WHICH ONE?
THERE'S NO TIME TO CONTACT SPECS AND ASK WHICH HE THINKS IS THE BETTER CHOICE!
IN FACT, THERE ISN'T EVEN TIME FOR ME TO WEIGH THE PROS AND CONS OF THIS MOMENTOUS ISSUE! I'VE GOTTA CHOOSE RIGHT NOW... BEFORE I LOSE THEM BOTH!
IN THE APARTMENT SHARED BY OUR THREE HEROES, SPECS AND SWIFT AWAIT CREEP'S MENTAL SUMMONS...
SPECS, I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT OUR CREEPY FRIEND! I DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO HAVE HIM DO ALL THIS LEG WORK
WHY NOT? HE'S GOOD AT IT! AND NO MATTER WHAT HE SAYS, HE ENJOYS IT!
MAYBE SO! BUT HE'S NOT DOING ENOUGH STUDYING. IF YOU DON'T WATCH IT, YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE CAUSE OF HIS FLUNKING OUT OF HERE!
DAVE, WHY MUST YOU BE SUCH A CONTINUAL WET BLANKET? HE ISN'T MISSING THAT MUCH STUDYING!
BIOLOGY
OH NO? TAKE A LOOK AT THIS, MISTER! IT'S A LETTER CREEP GOT THIS MORNING FROM THE DEAN OF LIBERAL ARTS! OL' SHINY DOME WANTS TO SEE CREEP IN HIS OFFICE TOMORROW MORNING! AND YOU CAN BET HE DIDN'T CALL HIM IN TO DISCUSS THE WEATHER!
LISTEN, SWIFT! I SUGGEST YOU STOP READING OTHER PEOPLE'S MAIL! AND QUIT JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS!
WHERE DO YOU GET OFF TELLIN' ME WHAT TO DO, FELLA! I OUGHT TO...
STOP WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING, PALS. I'VE GOT SOME GOOD NEWS! IT LOOKS LIKE OUR PLAN WORKED.

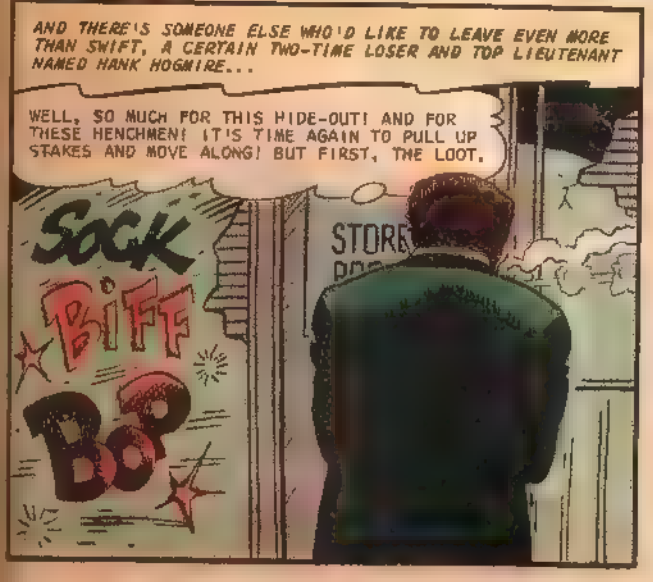
THE GUY I WAS FOLLOWING MADE CONTACT WITH ANOTHER FELLA...SO I FOLLOWED THE SECOND ONE! HE LED ME RIGHT TO THE SCIO-ALMOND BUILDING!
IT'S AN OLD BUILDING ON 12 PINES STREET...HASN'T BEEN USED IN YEARS! IT'S THE PERFECT PLACE FOR SOME CRIMINAL MASTERMIND TO BE HOLED UP IN.
"CRIMINAL MASTERMIND"?? YEEEESSH! WHO WRITES *YOUR* DIALOGUE??
SHUT-UP, SWIFT,-AND LISTEN! I'M GOING UP AND SCOUT AROUND. YOU TWO GET DOWN HERE AS FAST AS YOU CAN
WILL DO! AND YOU, BE CARE-FUL!
MEANWHILE, WITHIN THE BUILDING ITSELF...
SO, WHERE ARE THE JEWELS??
THEY DIDN'T GET THEM. CHARLIE WAS THE ONLY ONE THAT SHOWED UP AT THE RENDEZVOUS POINT! HE SAID THAT HE AND THE OTHERS MET THE TYROS! HE WAS LUCKY TO ESCAPE!
DON'T GIVE ME THAT! YOU'RE HOLDING OUT ON US!
NO! HONEST! THAT'S WHAT REALLY HAPPENED. YOU CAN TRUST *ME*, HANK!
OKAY, OKAY! I BELIEVE YOU! YOU'RE TOO MUCH OF A COWARD TO LIE TO A MAN LIKE *ME*!
SO NOW, WE'VE GOT TO GET A MESSAGE UP TO THE BIG MAN...AND EXPLAIN TO HIM HOW WE MESSED UP HIS PLAN!
DON'T WORRY! I'VE ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF THAT...!
I SENT CHARLIE UP THERE TO SEE HIM! THE BIG MAN'LL BELIEVE CHARLIE'S STORY, ONCE HE SEES THE CONDITION HE'S IN!
OH NO! I GOOFED!
THESE GUYS ARE NOTHING BUT LOUSY LIEUTENANTS!
IT WAS THE OTHER ONE I SHOULD HAVE FOLLOWED!
AND SHORTLY, AS SPECS AND SWIFT NEAR THE BUILDING.
WHY ARE WE GOING IN AFTER THESE GUYS! THEY'RE NOT THE ONES WE WANT!
USE YOUR HEAD! RIDDING SOCIETY OF *ANY* CRIMINAL IS A WORTHWHILE ACTIVITY! AND REMEMBER...THE MORE OF THE BIG MAN'S MEN WE PUT AWAY, THE CLOSER WE ARE TO GOADING HIM INTO A SHOW-DOWN! BUT WATCH IT...THESE BOYS SOUND LIKE THEY'LL BE THE ROUGHEST WE'VE MET YET!


THUS, WITHIN SECONDS, A FAMILIAR SHOUT OF SURPRISE RINGS OUT, AS A FORCEFUL ENTRANCE IS MADE...
THE TYROS!!!
CRASH!

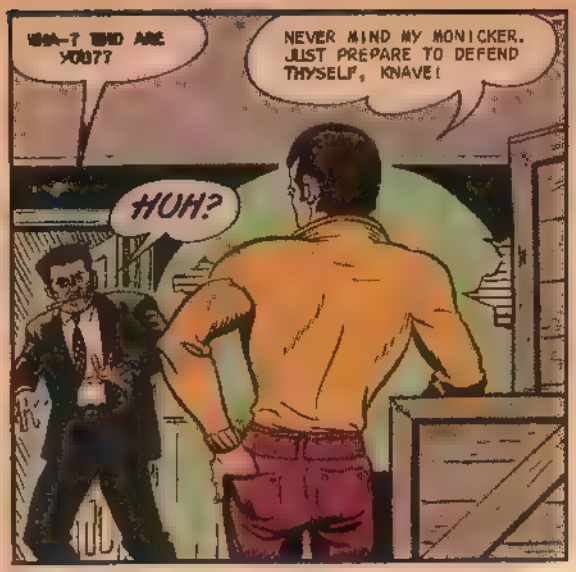
HEY! YOU CAN T USE A GUN! WHAT IF THE POLICE SHOULD...?
THAT WON'T WORK THIS TIME, SWIFT! WE'RE TOO FAR OFF THE BEATEN PATH FOR THEM TO WORRY ABOUT THE COPS!
EXIT
KRACK

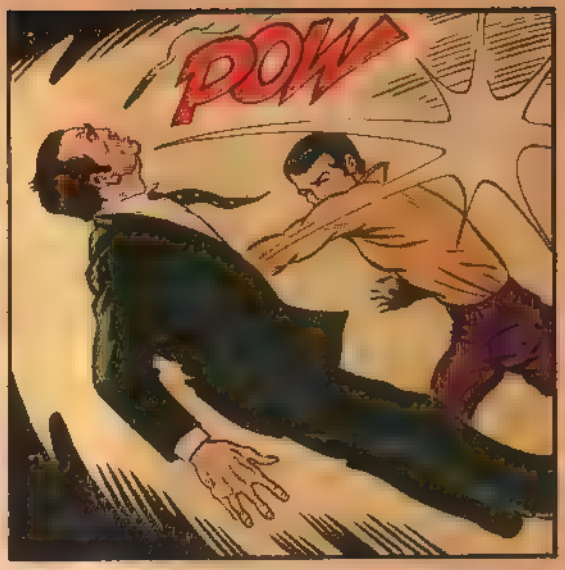
I SUPPOSE YOU WANT ME TO STAY HIDDEN THIS TIME, TOO, HUH? WHY IS IT I...
OH, NOW, DON'T *YOU* START BUGGIN' US! CAN'T YOU SEE WE'RE DODGING BULLETS?? WE VE GOT NO TIME FOR PETTY COMPLAINTS!
STAY RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE, CREEP ...WHEREVER YOU ARE!
SOCK
THUMP

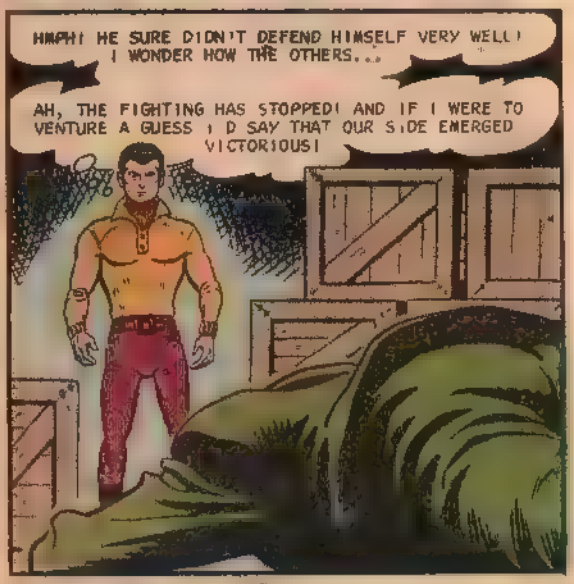

IT'S WORKING, SWIFT! EVEN AGAINST FIRE ARMS WE'RE GAINING THE UPPER HAND!
AND IT'S BECAUSE OF OUR POWERS...BECAUSE WE CAN TELL EACH OTHER WHAT WE'RE PLANNING WITHOUT ANYONE OVERHEARING US!
GOOD! NOW CAN WE LEAVE?
SOCK
IT!

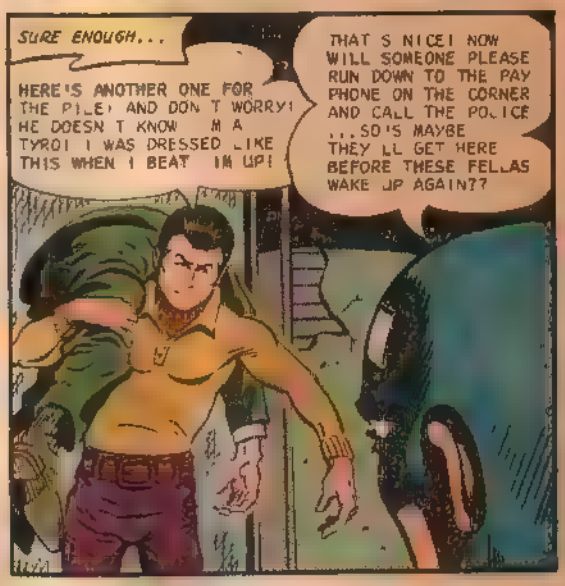

AND THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE WHO'D LIKE TO LEAVE EVEN MORE THAN SWIFT, A CERTAIN TWO-TIME LOSER AND TOP LIEUTENANT NAMED HANK HOGMIRE...
WELL, SO MUCH FOR THIS HIDE-OUT! AND FOR THESE HENCHMEN! IT'S TIME AGAIN TO PULL UP STAKES AND MOVE ALONG! BUT FIRST, THE LOOT.
SOCK
BIFF
BOP
STORE

SO FAR SO GOOD! I'M SURE NO ONE SAW ME COME IN HERE, AND NOW TO...
AHEM!


WHO-? WHO ARE YOU??
NEVER MIND MY MONICKER. JUST PREPARE TO DEFEND THYSELF, KNAVE!
HUH?

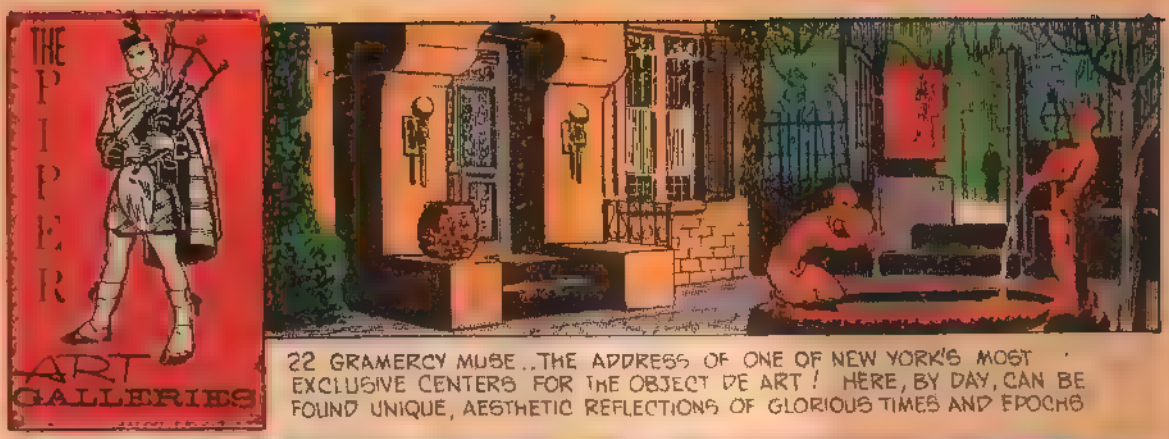

POW


HMPH! HE SURE DIDN'T DEFEND HIMSELF VERY WELL! I WONDER HOW THE OTHERS...
AH, THE FIGHTING HAS STOPPED! AND IF I WERE TO VENTURE A GUESS I'D SAY THAT OUR SIDE EMERGED VICTORIOUS!

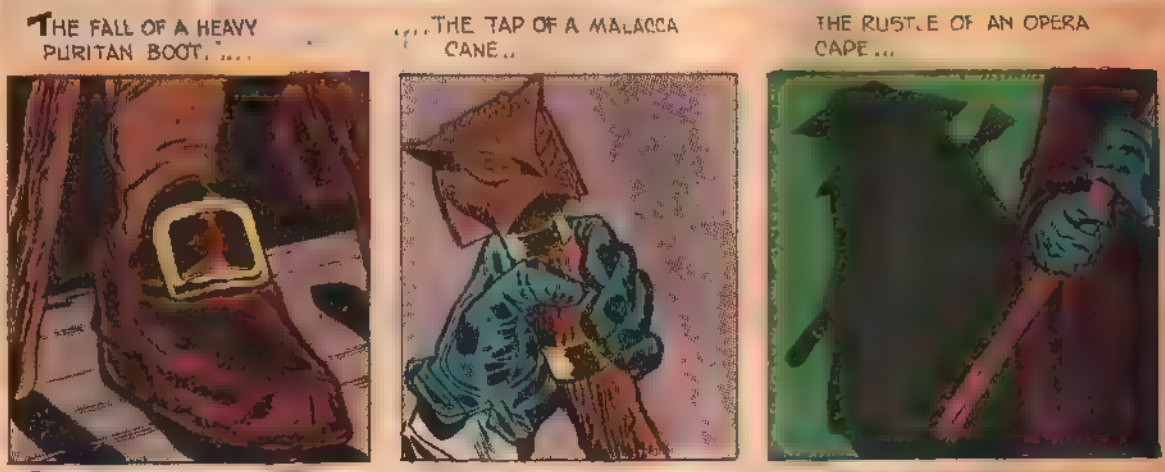

SURE ENOUGH...
HERE'S ANOTHER ONE FOR THE PILE! AND DON'T WORRY! HE DOESN'T KNOW I'M A TYRO! I WAS DRESSED LIKE THIS WHEN I BEAT HIM UP!
THAT'S NICE! NOW WILL SOMEONE PLEASE RUN DOWN TO THE PAY PHONE ON THE CORNER AND CALL THE POLICE ...SO'S MAYBE THEY'LL GET HERE BEFORE THESE FELLAS WAKE UP AGAIN??

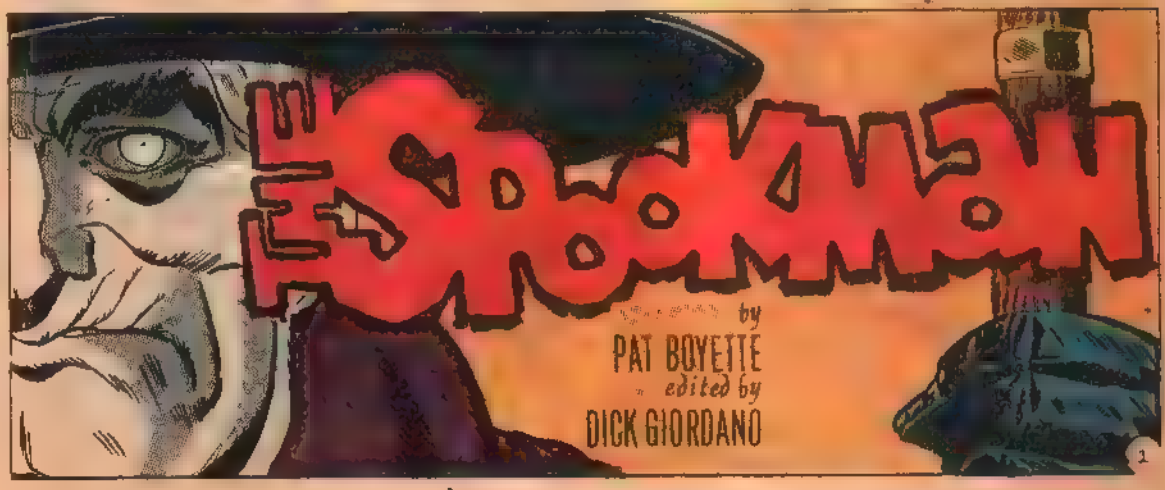
LATER, AFTER SEEING THE BAD MEN ON THEIR MERRY WAY, OUR HEROES RETURN TO THEIR APARTMENT...
WOW! THIS HAS BEEN SOME NIGHT! THERE'S JUST ENOUGH TIME NOW FOR AN HOUR OF SHUT-EYE BEFORE MY MORNING CLASSES!
THAT AIN'T FOR ME. I'VE GOT A TEST TOMORROW... OR RATHER TODAY! SO IT'S MIDNIGHT OIL BURNING TIME...OR RATHER EARLY MORNING OIL BUR...WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!

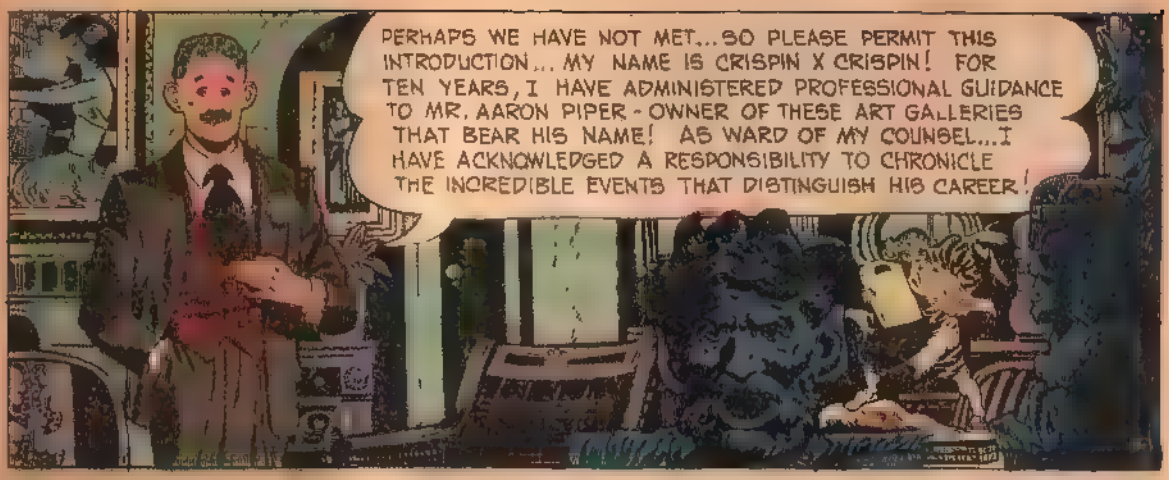
...I JUST DON'T FEEL LIKE IT!
IN FACT I HAVEN'T FELT LIKE DOING MUCH OF ANYTHING THESE PAST COUPLE OF MONTHS
I WONDER WHAT'S GOT ME SO HUNG-UP!
WELL, YOU'VE MET 'EM...NOW WHAT DO YOU THINK? IF YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE TYRO TEAM ...LIKE HOW THEY GOT THEIR POWERS AND WHERE THEY GOT THEIR NAME AND WHY CREEP IS HUNG-UP, JUST DROP US A CARD. WE'LL SEE WHAT WE CAN DO.
THE EVER LOVIN' END

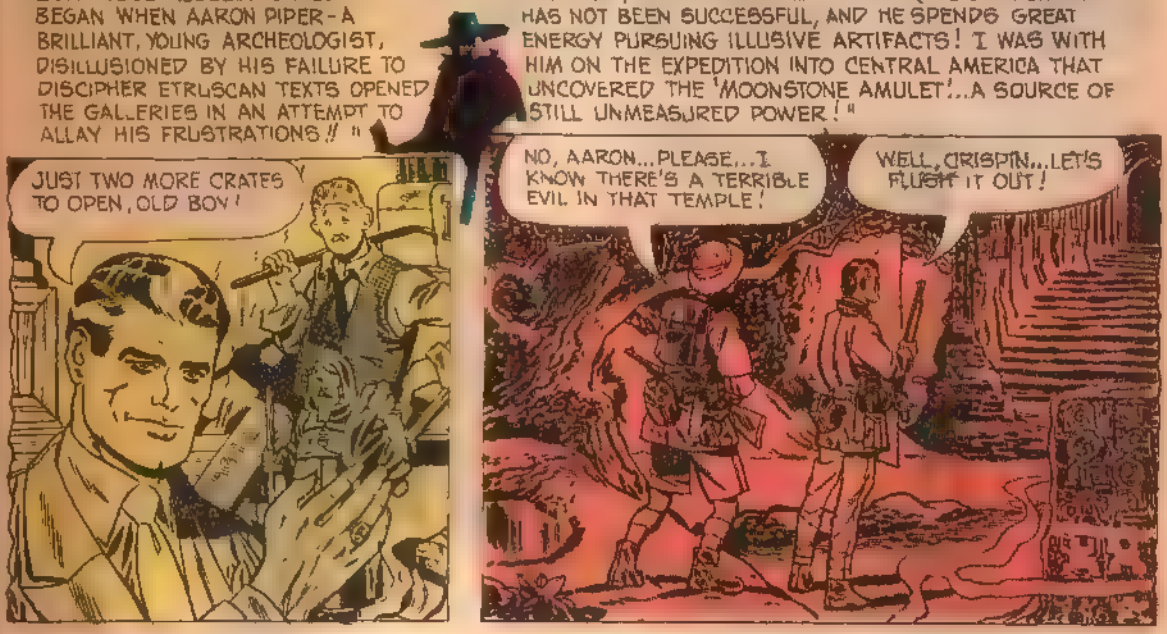

THE PIPER
ART GALLERIES
22 GRAMERCY MUSE..THE ADDRESS OF ONE OF NEW YORK'S MOST EXCLUSIVE CENTERS FOR THE OBJECT DE ART! HERE, BY DAY, CAN BE FOUND UNIQUE, AESTHETIC REFLECTIONS OF GLORIOUS TIMES AND EPOCHS

BUT- AT NIGHT, WHEN THE GALLERIES' HEAVY SHUTTERS HAVE BEEN SECURED AND THE MUSE SINKS INTO A SHROUD OF DARKNESS, SUBDUED BUT FRIGHTENING SOUNDS SEEM TO COME FROM THE SHADOWED INTERIOR!


THE FALL OF A HEAVY PURITAN BOOT.....
....THE TAP OF A MALACCA CANE..
THE RUSTLE OF AN OPERA CAPE...
GENTLE - ALMOST INAUDIBLE SOUNDS THAT COMBINE TO SCREAM THE PRESENCE OF


THE SPOOKANOON
by
PAT BOYETTE
edited by
DICK GIORDANO
1

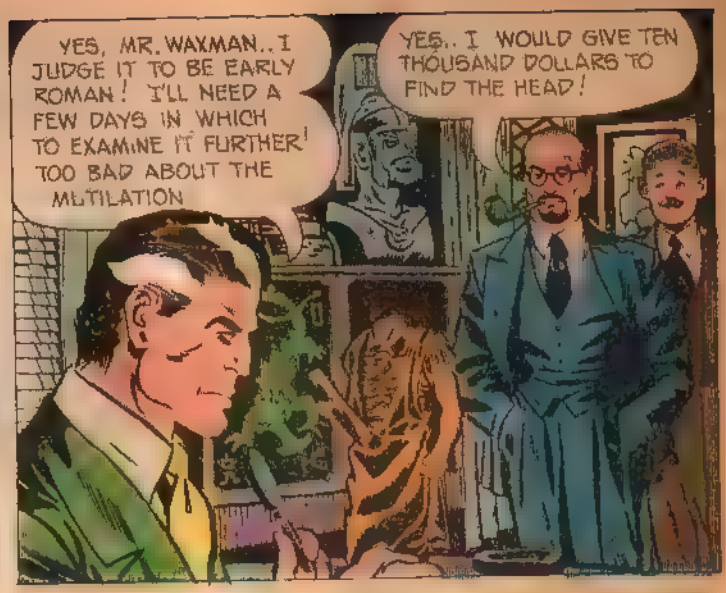

PERHAPS WE HAVE NOT MET... SO PLEASE PERMIT THIS INTRODUCTION... MY NAME IS CRISPIN X CRISPIN! FOR TEN YEARS, I HAVE ADMINISTERED PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE TO MR. AARON PIPER - OWNER OF THESE ART GALLERIES THAT BEAR HIS NAME! AS WARD OF MY COUNSEL... I HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED A RESPONSIBILITY TO CHRONICLE THE INCREDIBLE EVENTS THAT DISTINGUISH HIS CAREER!


"OUR CLOSE ASSOCIATION OFFICIALLY BEGAN WHEN AARON PIPER - A BRILLIANT, YOUNG ARCHEOLOGIST, DISILLUSIONED BY HIS FAILURE TO DISCIPHER ETRUSCAN TEXTS OPENED THE GALLERIES IN AN ATTEMPT TO ALLAY HIS FRUSTRATIONS!!"
JUST TWO MORE CRATES TO OPEN, OLD BOY!
"HOWEVER, HIS RETREAT TO A TRANQUIL ENVIRONMENT HAS NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL, AND HE SPENDS GREAT ENERGY PURSUING ILLUSIVE ARTIFACTS! I WAS WITH HIM ON THE EXPEDITION INTO CENTRAL AMERICA THAT UNCOVERED THE 'MOONSTONE AMULET'... A SOURCE OF STILL UNMEASURED POWER!"
NO, AARON... PLEASE... I KNOW THERE'S A TERRIBLE EVIL IN THAT TEMPLE!
WELL, CRISPIN... LET'S FLUSH IT OUT!

"IT IS THE 'MOONSTONE' THAT PROVOKES THE METAMORPHOSIS THAT TURNS AARON PIPER INTO THE TERRIFYING MONSTROSITY OF STRENGTH WE HAVE COME TO CALL 'THE SPOOKMAN!'"

"WE HAVE JUST TOUCHED THE SURFACE OF THE SEEMINGLY ENDLESS POWERS OF THE MOONSTONE! OUR GREATEST SURPRISE CAME WITH THE DISCOVERY THAT THE STONE OFFERED A MEANS OF TIME TELEPORTATION OR, IF YOU PREFER... TIME TRAVEL!"
2.

THE EXPERIMENTS WITH 'TIME TRAVEL' BEGAN WITH A CHANCE REMARK AT A TIME WHEN NOTED COLLECTOR, O.H.M. WAXMAN HAD REQUESTED AUTHENTICATION OF A PIECE OF ROMAN SCULPTURE...

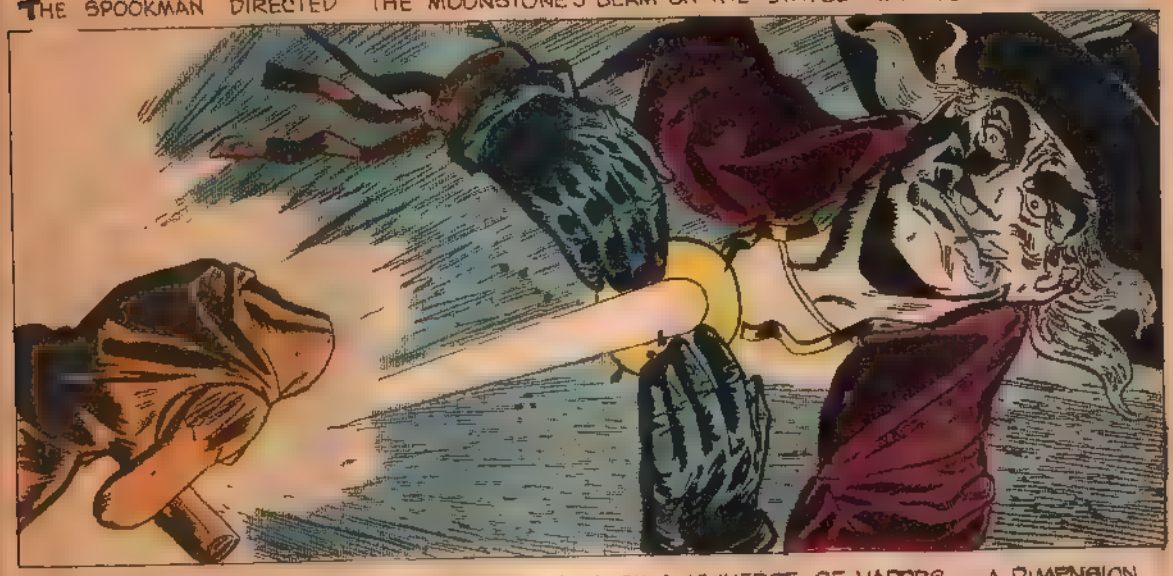

YES, MR. WAXMAN.. I JUDGE IT TO BE EARLY ROMAN! I'LL NEED A FEW DAYS IN WHICH TO EXAMINE IT FURTHER! TOO BAD ABOUT THE MUTILATION
YES.. I WOULD GIVE TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS TO FIND THE HEAD!

'TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS'... THE OFFER PLUNGED PIPER INTO DEEP, SILENT THOUGHT! AND, WHEN MR WAXMAN HAD TAKEN HIS LEAVE..

THE LIGHT WAS STILL POURING FROM UNDER AARON PIPER'S WORKSHOP DOOR WHEN I RETIRED! FOR HOURS I SUFFERED A TROUBLED SLEEP...THEN I WAS JOLTED TO A SHOCKED AWARENESS BY THE FRIGHTENING FIGURE BESIDE MY BED!

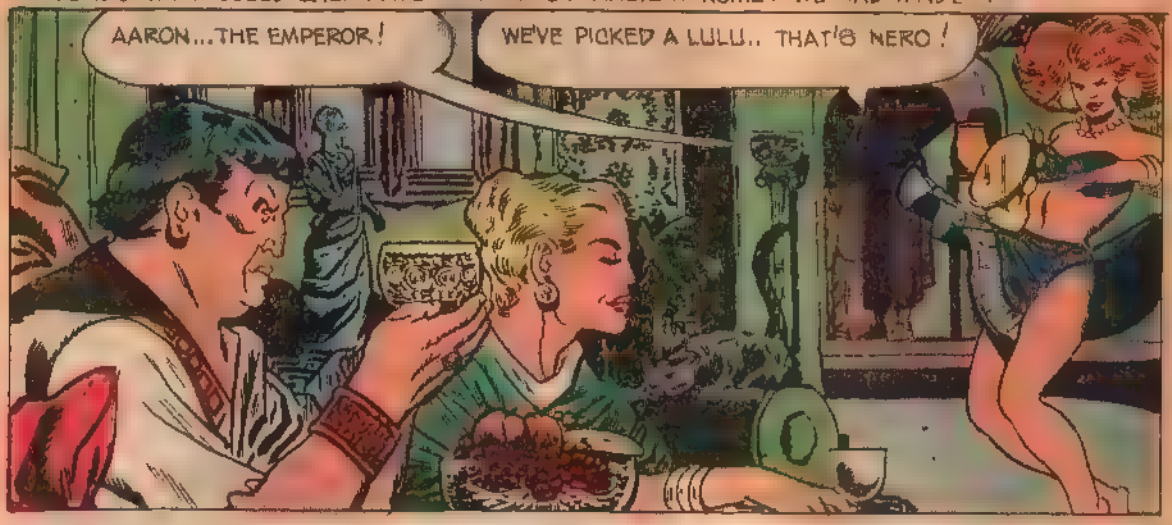
THE STATUE HAD BEEN PLACED IN THE CENTER OF A CHALKED CIRCLE! WE ALSO TOOK POSITIONS WITHIN THE MARKED CONFINES..

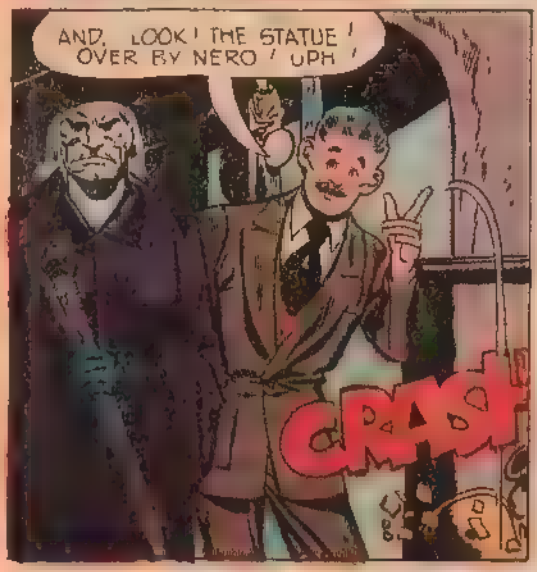
THE SPOOKMAN DIRECTED THE MOONSTONE'S BEAM ON THE STATUE AND SUDDENLY....



..THE WORLD VANISHED ..WE WERE MOVING THROUGH A UNIVERSE OF VAPORS A DIMENSION OF DARKNESS. .PEOPLED BY FLICKERING GHOSTS OF THE MILLENNIA.....

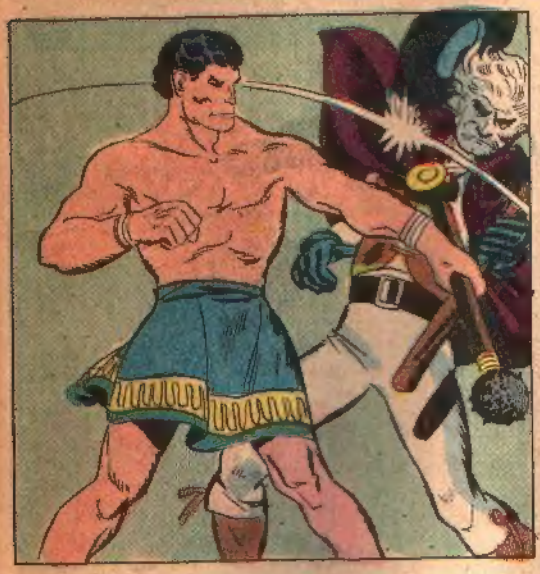
"THE VOID OPENED AND I FELT THE COLD SOLIDITY OF MARBLE! MY EARS WERE RINGING WITH SOUNDS THAT COULD ONLY HAVE COME FROM ANCIENT ROME! WE HAD MADE IT

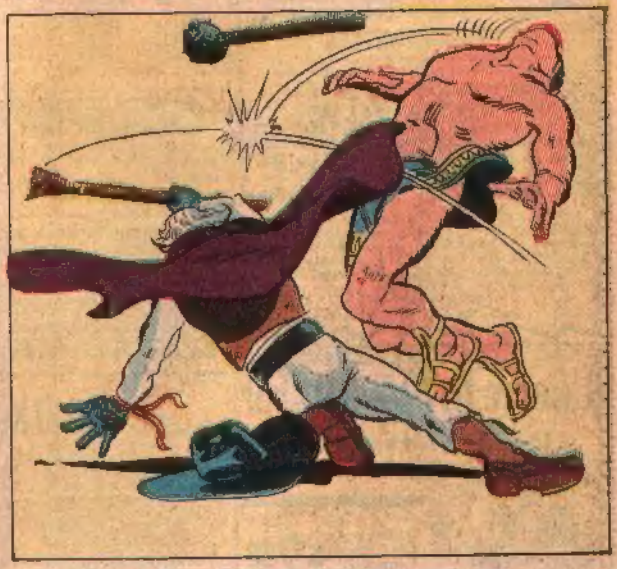


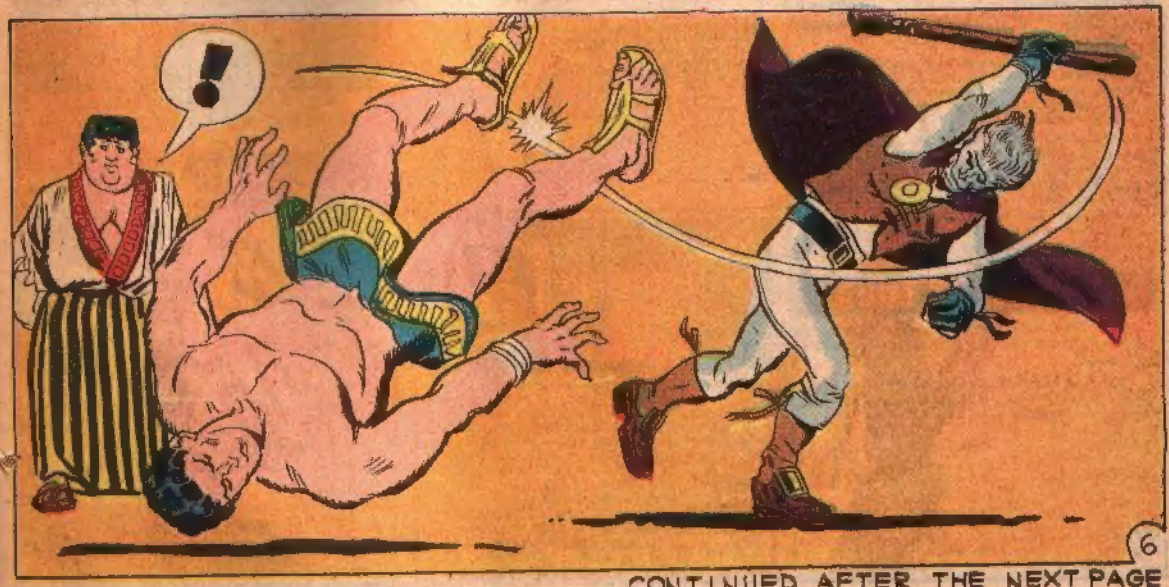


NOW, SEE HERE WE'RE NOT ENTERTAINERS!
NOT ENTERTAINERS? THEN YOU MUST BE THIEVES, OR ASSASSINS NO PERHAPS YOU'RE GLADIATORS FOR THE GAMES! WELL, LET'S SEE IF YOU QUALIFY! MARCO!

ATTENTION... WE'RE ABOUT TO HAVE A CONTEST.... MARCO.. THE STRONGEST OF THE STRONG! WILL NOW BREAK THE NECK OF THE UGLIEST OF THE UGLY!! PROCEED, MARCO!
OH, DEAR!







CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT PAGE

BRAVO!
IT'S ABOUT TIME WE HAD A NEW CHAMPION... AND, AS SUCH - THE HONEY OF ROME IS YOURS,...JUST NAME IT!
GLUG!

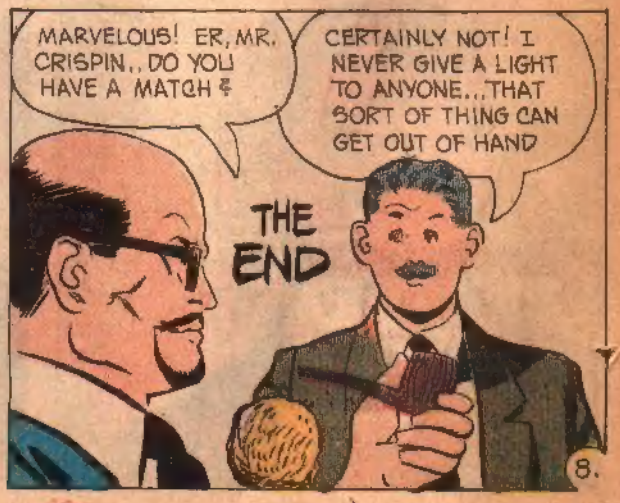
...AS A MATTER-OF-FACT...WE WANT TO BUY THAT STATUE! OF COURSE, WE'RE PREPARED TO PAY UP TO...UH..THIRTY DOLLARS!

DOLLARS? WHAT ARE DOLLARS? I DEAL IN COIN...GOLD..JEWELS!

OH...THIS IS A BIT OF A STICKY-WICKET! WAIT... HOW ABOUT THIS?..A FIRE BOX!

YES, FASCINATING! ER..GO ON...TAKE THE STATUE!

"THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT THE 'MOONSTONE' WOULD BECOME AN IRRESISTIBLE 'MAGIC CARPET' TO ADVENTURE FOR US! FOR MR. O.H.M. WAXMAN IT HAD MEANT THE FULFILLMENT OF AN ARTISTIC DELIGHT!"


MARVELOUS! ER, MR. CRISPIN.. DO YOU HAVE A MATCH?
CERTAINLY NOT! I NEVER GIVE A LIGHT TO ANYONE... THAT SORT OF THING CAN GET OUT OF HAND
THE END

ACTION-HEROES?
WE GOT 'EM!!!
PETER CANNON
THUNDERBOLT
THE
PEACEMAKER
the
BLUE
BEETLE
5 OF 'EM
TO BE EXACT...
AND THEY'RE
NOT
HALF BAD!
JUDO
MASTER
CAPTAIN
ATOM